



# HOW TO PRUNE AND TRIM

for the best • SHRUBS • FLOWERS •  
• TREES • VINES • FRUITS  
• HEDGES • LAWNS

**SNAP-CUT**

**SEYMOUR SMITH & SON, INC.**  
OAKVILLE, CONNECTICUT 06779

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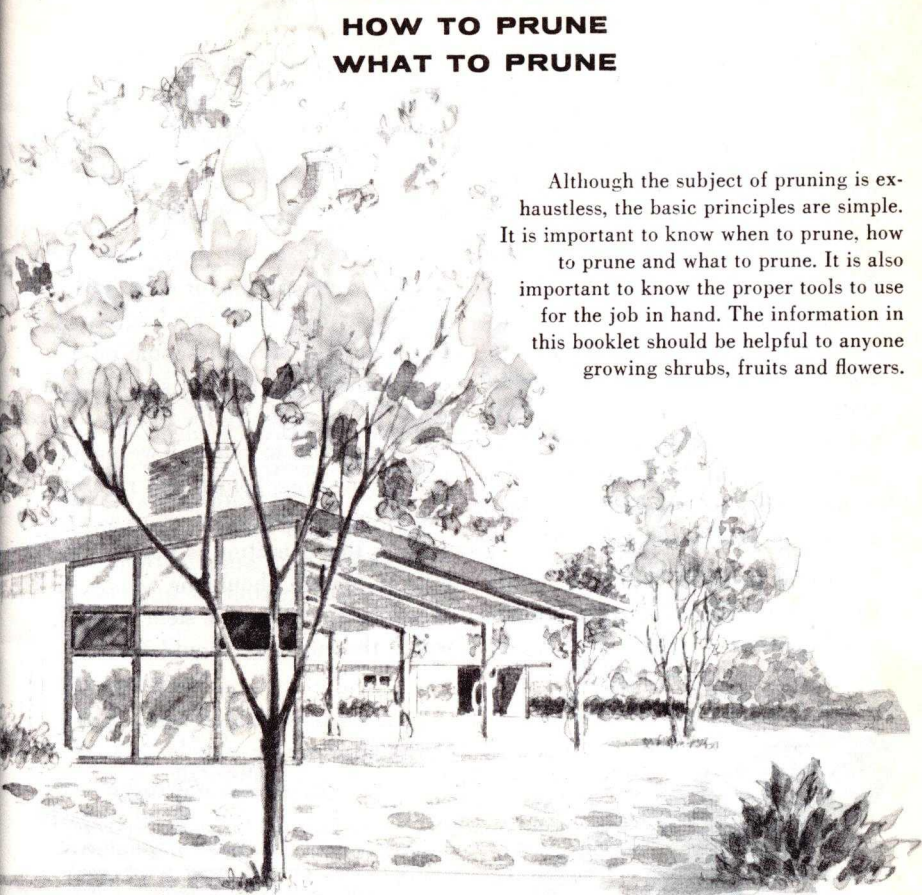
THE SEYMOUR SMITH BOOKLET

# HOW TO PRUNE AND TRIM

to improve your shrubs, fruits and flowers

SHOWS YOU  
**WHEN TO PRUNE**  
**HOW TO PRUNE**  
**WHAT TO PRUNE**

Although the subject of pruning is exhaustless, the basic principles are simple. It is important to know when to prune, how to prune and what to prune. It is also important to know the proper tools to use for the job in hand. The information in this booklet should be helpful to anyone growing shrubs, fruits and flowers.



*Produced by*

**SEYMOUR SMITH & SON, INC.**  
OAKVILLE, CONNECTICUT 06779

*Manufacturers of extraordinarily fine  
pruning equipment for more than one hundred thirty years.*

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# THE REASONS WHY PRUNING IMPROVES UPON NATURE

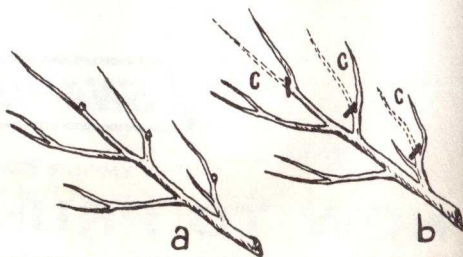


Fig. 1

**GROWTH CONTROL:** The direction and amount of growth can be controlled by proper pruning. "A" shows unpruned branch. "B" shows growth after cutting at "C". Dotted lines show original unpruned growth.

NATURE UNATTENDED goes berserk, evidenced by the deep tangled wild wood and untamed undergrowth of our forests. Neglected trees do their own pruning. Weak branches die and drop off — rubbing branches kill one another. Our woods are full of dead limbs and branches pruned by nature's ruthless winds, snow and ice storms. Thick undergrowth frequently kills trees by its dense shade. Nature's pruning is a slow, haphazard process when we let her take her course. A quicker and more uniform result is preferable so we help out nature with pruning shears.

Careful pruning results in better and stronger plants, sturdier growth, more abundant fruits and larger

showier blooms, plus a control of the shape, size and symmetry of the plantings. Those are the essential reasons for pruning.

## Removal of Dead Wood

It's a drain on the energy of any plant to support dying or dead limbs, broken or diseased branches, all of which should promptly come off. A dead branch on a bush or small plant offers an opportunity for insects and rot organisms to enter. Two interfering branches sometimes rub together and cause bark wounds. As soon as this condition is noticed the weaker branch should be removed. In pruning any branch, stem or dead wood, the cut back should be made



## SNAP-CUT No. 19 PRUNING SHEAR

The ideal tool for general all around pruning. This is the original anvil action pruning shear which easily cuts up to 3/4" branches. Full 8" long, bright, long lasting chrome plated finish.



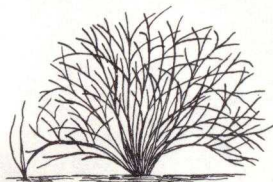


Fig. 2  
Before

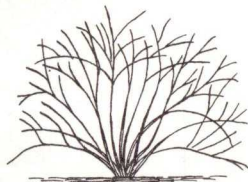


Fig. 3  
After

### PROPER WAY TO PRUNE SHRUBS

A tangled jungle of stems calls for a thinning out of the oldest and poorest branches which should be cut back to the ground. Long unsightly canes should be pruned back to preserve the natural shape of the shrub.

flush with the parent branch or trunk. If it is not necessary to remove the entire branch, the cut should be just beyond, but close to, a bud as explained in the section THE PROPER WAY TO CUT.

### Growth Control

Pruning for growth means giving a young plant a basic structure of good habits and tendencies. Bad habits frequently result in weakness and deformity. Proper pruning makes certain that trees, shrubs and flowers grow within prescribed limits as to shape and size. Pruning results in a shorter, more bushy plant with larger fruit or flowers and more of them.

### Greater Bloom

More and larger blossoms are usually the result of proper balance between the foliage above and the roots below the ground. An old neglected shrub, for example, that has gotten cluttered with bare woody stems where bloom is sparse, can be brought back into shape, and desirable limits, by the complete removal of a large part of the older growth and heading

back of the larger and younger branches. This should not be done, however, in one major operation, but over a period of two or three years. It must be remembered that some plants can be pruned back to the crown without injury while others cannot stand being thrown out of balance to any such extent.

Most annual and perennial garden flowers grow tall and lanky unless snipped back to induce a shorter, more bushy plant which will be covered with bloom. Many popular annuals should be cut back or disbudded and kept short and full as the season advances.



Proper pruning requires a sharp, keen cutting edge and a tool that is in good repair. This Kit contains a new properly sharpened blade plus all necessary repair parts with full instructions for complete reconditioning your No. 119 or No. 19 Pruner.

# THE REASONS WHY PRUNING IMPROVES UPON NATURE



Fig. 4  
a. Terminal Bud  
b. Axil or side buds

## Disbudding

The growth of a plant develops from buds formed at the tip of the stems and branches. These topmost buds on a shoot, known as terminal buds are the ones from which the strongest new growth is made. When the terminal bud is pinched off, the buds below it in the axils of the leaves receive more energy and grow more vigorously. Conversely, nipping off subordinate side buds directs more strength and energy to the terminal bud on the tip of the branch. This results in extra large choice blooms, but fewer of them. This disbudding process should be done early before the side buds have fully developed or when they are about the size of a pea. The buds left to grow determine the shape and form that new growth will take, as well as the quality of bloom and yield — described more fully under Flowers. Some disbudding can be done with the thumb and forefingers, but any cutting back should be accomplished with sharp pruning shears to insure a clean, quick-healing cut.

## Pruning for Shape and Form

There are two types of pruning for shape and form. The first is in formal foundation plantings where the shrubs or trees are sheared, rather than pruned, into stiff, unnatural pyramidal or ball shaped designs. Some shearing of this symmetrical type borders on the grotesque and is overdone to a marked degree. Such close clipping of evergreens in foundation plantings is not considered good landscaping. The second is a reasonable control of the plant, so that it retains its own natural form and outline. This type of pruning is described under “When and How To Prune Evergreens”.

The beauty of conifers, such as fir, spruce and pine trees lies in their natural shape as nature intended. This shape should be controlled, but not radically changed by pruning. These stiff needled plants are actually forest trees and frequently ruin the appearance of property by smothering the house, crowding doorways and blocking off windows. Founda-



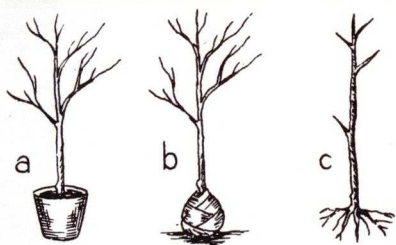


Fig. 5

New trees or shrubs may be received in a container (a) balled and burlapped (b) or bare-root (c). If bare root, cut back any ragged ends of roots and prune back top (as in c) to restore plant balance.

tion plantings should be chosen carefully and confined to flowering shrubs and softer foliated evergreens such as yews, arborvitae and junipers which are better adapted to proper pruning and landscaping.

### Pruning at Planting Time

A growing tree, shrub or plant is usually in natural balance between the root structure below the ground and the plant growth above it. In transplanting, the digging out process frequently disturbs part of the root growth and some of it is de-

stroyed. The plant's balance is consequently affected and wilting occurs until the natural balance is in great part restored. Should the roots be balled and burlapped at the nursery the plant may also have been properly pruned back — so that it can more readily stand the shock of transplanting. Bare rooted stock, however, has to catch hold and start life all over again, consequently it should usually be pruned back one fourth or more, so that the moisture given off by the top will not exceed the capacity of roots to supply it. Broken or ragged ends of the root system should also be removed before planting. See Figure 5.

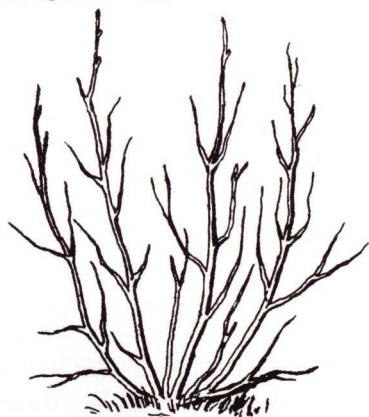


Fig. 6

Shrub at planting before pruning.

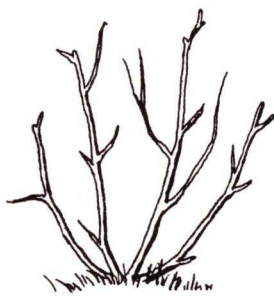


Fig. 7

Shrub at planting after pruning.

## THE PROPER WAY TO CUT



THE NEXT step in pruning is where, and how, to make the actual cut. Any tree or plant has a great will to live and a cutting operation leaves a wound that must properly heal or infection may occur with bad and sometimes fatal results. Any cut must be clean and smooth so that new bark will have a chance to grow over the wound, healing it completely. This is a long process if the cut is jagged and the bark becomes bruised. No pruning instrument for general use equals the Seymour Smith No. 19 "Snap-Cut." It has the original anvil type construction with exceptional power to bite through a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " branch with ease and effectiveness. Larger bran-

ches, up to  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " can be cut with little or no effort by using No. 1149 long handled "Snap-Cut" Pruner.

### How to Cut

One cardinal pruning rule is to leave no stubs. Either cut close to the main branch or immediately above a bud. In sawing off a sizeable limb, make an under cut to prevent the weight of the limb from falling prematurely and stripping the bark, which usually leaves an ugly wound. The first cut is properly made about one third of the way through the branch, ten to fifteen inches out from the main trunk and from the bottom up (see Fig. 8). A second cut is sometimes made farther out from the top down. The third and final cut of the remaining stub is then made flush and parallel to the main trunk so that the falling limb will not injure the bark or tree. In performing the cutting operation any loose bark should be trimmed back to the point where it is sound and firmly adhered to the wood. For the quickest healing results the wound should be trimmed clean with no ragged edges and covered with a protective coating. Large

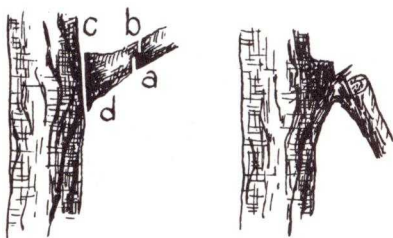


Fig. 8

Avoid limb breaking before cut is completed. Make undercut at a, second cut at b, and final cut at c.





limbs are hazardous and it is advisable to have a professional arborist or tree surgeon do the job. He knows exactly how to perform such a major operation safely and well.

### Wound Protection

Every cut of more than one and one half inches in diameter should have a protective coating of Tree Wound Dressing. SEYMOUR SMITH'S No. 16 Tree Wound Dressing comes complete with a handy brush application attached inside the can cover, always ready for use. The primary reason for coating a large wound is to keep out moisture and to accelerate the healing process. It sometimes takes years before a wound is covered with bark, so a seasonal repainting is advisable until the wood is completely covered.



Fig. 9  
For best healing results, trim wounds to a tapered or oval shape.

Any injury should have attention. It frequently happens that a lawn mower will scuff up the bark — frost will cause a split — or borers will begin their dastardly work. Any loose or bruised bark should be trimmed back to firm wood. Healing becomes quicker if the wound is trimmed in an oval shape as in Fig. 9.

### Where to Prune

In all pruning make the cut just above a bud that points in the direction in which new growth is desired, and at a rather abrupt angle as shown in (a) in the illustration. A cut made as at (b) exposes an unnecessary amount of wound tissue, as at (c) leaves too long a stub and as at (d) is too close to the bud which would probably die. (See Fig. 10.)

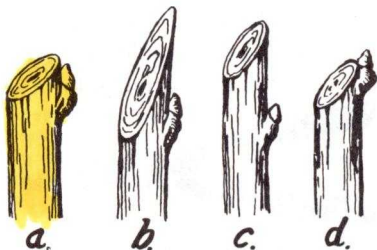
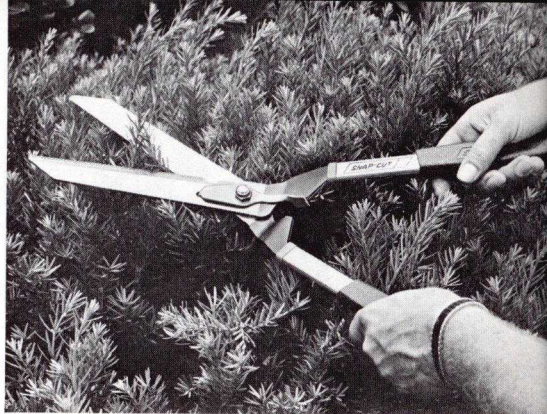


Fig. 10  
Cutting in relation to buds: a. Correct; b. Too much surface; c. Too long a stub; d. Too close to bud.

## HOW and WHEN TO PRUNE



THE PROPER time to prune is a variable. By and large most shrubs, trees, and vines are pruned while dormant during February, March and April, just before the sap starts to flow. Pruning at this time results in quicker healing of the wounds as new growth is about to start. There are some exceptions, such as many flowering shrubs which should not be pruned until after blossoming. It is also true that some plants thrive on being cut back and it makes others most unhappy.

### Pruning Hedges

Hedges are of two general classifications:

1. Shrubs or trees planted close together in a row to form an informal hedge, wind-break, or high screen should be allowed to retain their original form and



**SNAP-CUT No. 354-9 HEDGE SHEAR**  
Top quality shear with 9" blades for keeping your hedges neat, trim, and healthy. Blade notched for cutting larger branches.

characteristics. Pruning of this type of hedge is confined to heading back for density and the removal of broken, diseased or dead branches.

2. The formal or "wall of green" type of hedge, such as Privet, Boxwood and Japanese Barberry takes kindly to close persistent pruning and shearing.

### Newly Planted Hedges

The beauty of a hedge of this type is its thickness, or density, from the bottom to the top and this is accomplished by proper fashioning from the very beginning. In planting a hedge the plants are usually set out close together in two staggered rows. It is a mistake to allow the plants to reach the desired height before pruning. This is usually the reason for so many poor unsightly hedges with thin sparse branching at the bottom.

As soon as the plants are set they should be cut back one third of their height. When about 24 to 30-in. high they should be cut back again six to twelve inches or nearly in half. This pruning will encourage new growth



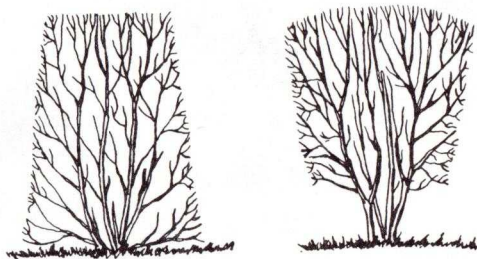


Fig. 11

RIGHT

WRONG

Keep base of hedge bush wider at the bottom.

from side buds and induces the much desired branchlets and twigs in abundance. When this new growth is about a foot long it should be cut back again, about in half. Each pruning makes the hedge grow thicker and broader. By the second or third season the new growth is usually large and dense enough to have permanent outline and dimensions. Two or three seasonal shearings are usually sufficient — the first as soon as growth starts in the spring, and the second and third in early and late summer. Pruning a hedge later than that is apt to stimulate new tender growth which is likely to winter kill. The base of the hedge should always be pruned wider than the top so that the lower branches get plenty of light, retain their foliage and not get straggly. See Fig. 11.

### Old Neglected Hedges

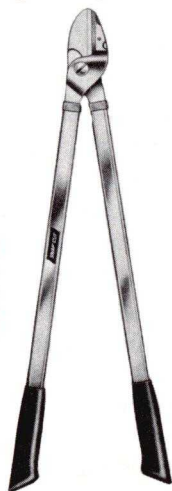
In rejuvenating an old neglected and "leggy" hedge or one that has been winter killed, it can be cut back to a few inches above the ground in the early spring and then pruned like a new planting as in the foregoing

instructions. For such heavy cutting back use a good lopping shear.

A hedge requires generous feeding and a good supply of moisture. A top dressing of well rotted manure or compost in late fall is good winter protection. Dirt, however, should not be banked up around the stems of the plants as this practice induces additional root growth which is likely to dry out and die in hot weather. Keep the hedge center clean of dead twigs and leaves during the growing season — otherwise it breeds unwanted insects, slugs and other garden pests.

### SNAP-CUT No. 1149 LOPPING SHEAR

An excellent anvil shear for severely cutting back hedges or for cutting any heavy branches up to 1 1/4" diameter.



## WHEN and HOW TO PRUNE ROSES



AUTHORITIES DO NOT agree on any one general rule for rose pruning, except that all roses should be kept young by cutting back old nonproductive canes.

Various varieties, as well as the purpose for which the plant is to be used, call for different pruning treatments. Some types are cut back little or none, except for dead, broken or surplus branches, while others do better pruned more or less severely, depending upon what the gardener wishes to accomplish.

Most roses bloom more luxuriantly on wood that is not more than two years old. The roots may be old, but the foliage above ground by and large should usually be kept young.

Certain roses bloom on new wood—others flower on older canes. When an old cane has accomplished its usefulness in life and no longer bears roses, it should come out at the base in a clean slanting cut. Any excessively long canes should also be cut back in the fall to prevent winter damage. Severe pruning in the autumn, however, is not good practice, but **nearly all roses are improved by thinning out in the spring.** It is also

true that roses of weak, straggly growth should be cut back more severely than the more vigorous growers. So we prune to increase new growth and renewed vigor or to control old growth and general appearance.

TEAS AND HYBRID TEAS bloom on wood of the current year. Consequently, all old wood should be removed each spring back to 5 or 6-in. above the winter soil mound. Light fall pruning is advisable to prevent wind whipping and storm damage, when the canes may be shortened to about two and one half feet.

HYBRID PERPETUAL is a more rugged, vigorous plant than the Hybrid Tea. Each year it also blooms on shoots arising from stems of the previous year. Pruning Perpetuals, however, when used as a bedding plant, can be cut back to 10 to 15-in. in the spring, or even shorter . . . for a shrub, two to three feet as desired . . . for pillar roses allow to grow to any wanted height and cut out surplus wood to keep plant within bounds. A weak plant always requires harder pruning than a strong specimen.



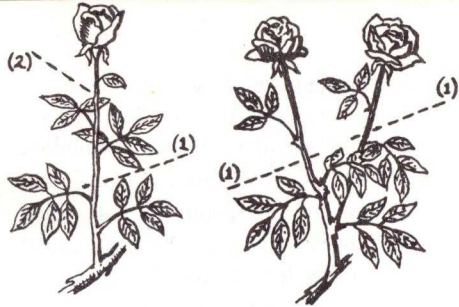


Fig. 12

FIRST CUTTING

SECOND CUTTING

Leave no more than two groups of leaves below the cut on the branch.

FLORIBUNDAS AND POLYANTHAS are bush roses producing clusters of bloom from early summer to late frost. These bedding roses of the Floribunda class grow to an average height of two to three feet. They should be pruned lightly, thinning out all dead and surplus wood in the late fall. Faded cluster heads should also be removed. Rugosa Roses and their hybrids grow to a height of 4 to 5 feet and the shrub types should have old canes cut out and new canes shortened to about four feet. Shrub roses other than Rugosa require little pruning. Elongated branches that have become out of hand, can be pruned back to size at any time. Old Fashioned Roses bear flowers on old wood. The pruning operation consists of a thinning out of old wood in the spring and leaving the huskiest 1 year and 2 year old canes. For finer bloom the plants can be pruned back to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 feet.

RAMBLERS or small flowered climbers bloom on one year old wood — consequently all the canes that have flowered should be removed as soon as the flowers fade. The current

year's young canes produced from the base should be trained up to bloom the following season.

CLIMBING ROSES of the large flowered type bloom on older canes, so contrary to the Rambler variety it is *not* advisable to remove all the canes that have flowered. Side shoots which have flowered can be cut back and all worn out canes removed.

### Cutting Roses

A single rose should be cut with an eye to stimulating future flowering and to preserve the shape of the plant. Each bud located in the axils of the leaves on the stems will send out shoots which will bear another rose.

In Fig. 12 (1) indicates the point where the stem should be cut, just above the second leaf joint, leaving only two groups of leaves below the cut on each branch from which new growth will start. Cutting on shorter stems (2) leaving several buds makes for too much competition of the shoots, and results in smaller, secondary blooms. Carefully located pruning stimulates flower production.

## WHEN and HOW TO PRUNE ROSES

## WHEN and HOW TO PRUNE EVERGREENS

Conifers, such as firs, balsam, spruce and pine trees should not be severely pruned or sheared. Their natural pyramidal form is their beauty and new growth is rarely produced from mature wood. To thicken the growth of conifers it is advisable to prune the center tip of the side branches. See Fig. 13. Such pruning should be done during the early summer—after new growth has been established. In certain tree hedges and screens, varieties such as hemlock can be topped to induce thickening and denseness. Small evergreens in foundation plantings can be controlled and kept well in hand by shearing the end buds and leaders. The softer-foliaged evergreens such as yews, aborvitae, junipers and retimosporas are adapted to shearing to a smooth surface and various forms, with sharp hedge shears. Such formal shearing however is not considered good practice. Low growing forms of juniper and others — should they start to intrude on a path or lawn, can be pruned back to a lusty side shoot or the leaders can be pruned out. In any event foundation plantings of trees or shrubs should never be allowed to grow high enough to cover the windows.

Broad leaved evergreen shrubs such as *Rhododendron* and *Laurel*

need little pruning except to preserve the natural shape of the plant and remove all dead or broken branches. Old dilapidated spindly plants can well be cut to the ground to encourage new shoots. The clipping of old faded flowers back to an axil bud is essential for continued bloom. Young plants should be clipped occasionally to encourage sturdy growth. Old overgrown plants of some varieties can be cut back severely in early spring.

Should the leader or topmost shoot of an evergreen be injured by storm or have to be cut away, the tree will not cease its upward growth. Gradually, one of the stronger, radiating side branches, that grow from the main stem at the base of the lost tip, will grow faster than the others, straighten up little by little, and in time replace the lost leader. This natural replacement effort can be hastened by taking the most promising side shoot, gently bending it upward and tying it in that position to a splint bound to the main stem. Under this gentle pressure it will more rapidly become upright and dominate over the others and the tree will regain its natural shape.

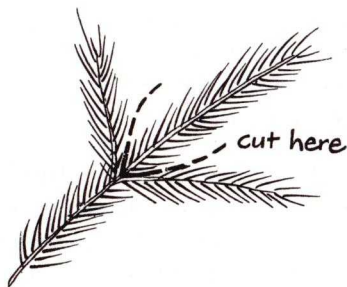


Fig. 13



# PRUNING TIME TABLE

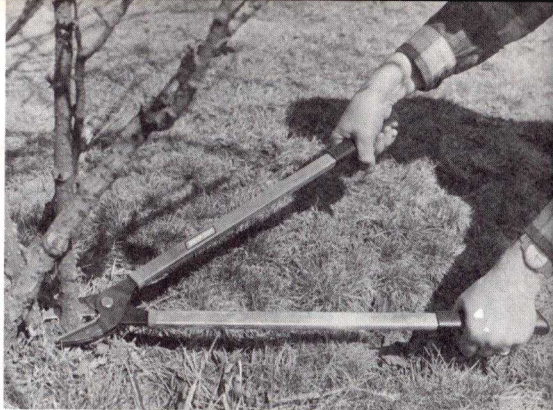
## PRUNE WHILE DORMANT

Abelia (Arbutus-shrub)	Lagerstroemia (Crape Myrtle)
Acanthopanax (Five-leaved aralia)	Lespedeza (Bushclover)
Althea, Shrubby (Rose of Sharon)	Ligustrum (Privet)
Amorpha (Indigo-bush)	Lilac Japonica (Tree Lilac)
Baccharis (Groundsel shrub)	Lonicera (Berried Honeysuckles)
Berberis (Barberry)	Lycium (Matrimony-vine)
Buddleia (Butterflybush)	Rhus (Sumac) (Smoke Tree)
Callicarpa (Beautyberry)	Roses (Garden Bush Varieties)
Caryopteris (Bluebeard)	Salix (Willow)
Ceanothus	Spiraea (Summer-flowering)
Clethra (Sweet pepper-bush)	Spirea Bumalda (Anthony Waterer)
Hamamelis (Witch-hazel)	Spirea Douglasii
Hibiscus (Rose-of-Sharon)	Staphylea (Bladdernut)
Hydrangea (except H. Opuloides)	Stephanandra
Hypericum (St. Johnswort)	Tamarix (late-flowering)
Indigofera (Indigo)	Viburnums (Berry-bearing)
Kerria	Vitex (Chaste Tree)

## PRUNE AFTER FLOWERING

Akebia	Kolwitzia amabilis (Beautybush)
Amelanchier, (Shadblow)	Lonicera fragrantissima (Bush Honeysuckle)
Azalea (Hardy Ghent, Mollis)	Magnolia
Benzoin (Spicebush)	Philadelphus (Mockorange)
Calycanthus Floridus (Sweet Shrub, Strawberry Shrub)	Pieris (Andromeda)
Caragana (Siberian Pea)	Potentilla (Cinquefoil)
Celastrus (Bitter Sweet)	Prunus (Flowering Almond, Cherry, Plum)
Cercis (Judas Tree, Red Bud)	Rhododendron
Chaenomoles (Flowering Quince)	Ribes (Flowering Currant)
Chionanthus (White Fringe)	Rosa
Cornus (Dogwood, without berries)	Spirea, Spring-flowering
Crataegus oxyacantha (English Hawthorne)	Spirea (Prunifolia, Bridal Wreath)
Cydonia (Jap. Quince)	Spirea Thunbergii
Cytisus (Broom)	Spirea Van Houttei
Daphne (Garland-Flower)	Syringa (Lilac)
Deutzia	Tamarix (Spring-flowering)
Exochorda (Pearlbush)	Viburnum carlesi, V. Lantana (Snowball)
Forsythia (Goldenbell)	Viburnum Opulus (High-bush Cranberry)
Hydrangea hortensia	Weigela (Diervillas)
Kalmia (Laurel)	

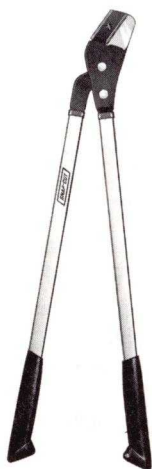
# WHEN and HOW TO PRUNE SHRUBS and VINES



FLOWERING SHRUBS are planted for their colorful bloom and usually require little pruning. They are most beautiful when allowed to take their natural untrammelled shapes. When winter injury necessitates removal of part of a shrub, or if long neglect calls for a major thinning out, it is best to prune the oldest and poorest branches right back to the ground and shorten the others to reasonable lengths to keep the plant from becoming leggy or straggly. It is not good practice to trim all the lower

branches and the young shoots coming up around the base of the plant; nor to give the plant a "barber shop haircut" type of pruning, that is, the rounding off of a shrub until it has the outline of a mushroom or igloo. This makes an unnatural, grotesque thing of it, reduces its flowering area, and creates an effect that can be corrected only by demolishing the top and starting all over again. See Figs. 14, 15 and 16.

Lilacs should be pruned after flowering. Unless kept in control they have a tendency to grow too tall and become leggy. Most of the young suckers and all the dead wood should come out. It is well at times to remove some of the older branches so that more light reaches the center. An old, uncared for lilac should be cut nearly to the ground and start an entirely new plant. A lilac that is allowed to become too dense is forced to grow high. Each branch should have growing room and the plant kept down to six to eight feet in height.

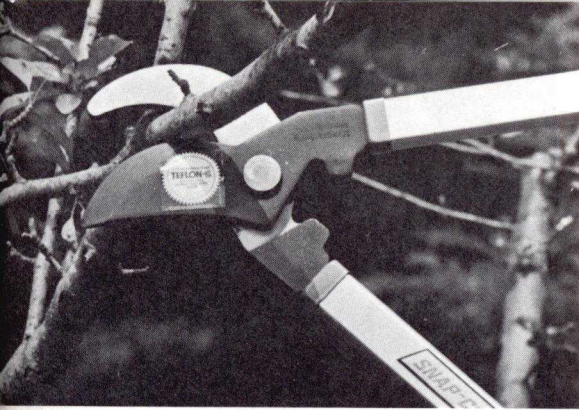


**No. 25T  
TIMBERLINE  
LOPPING SHEAR**

Sturdy tool for extra heavy pruning and brush clearing. Geared cutting action for multi-power, gives three times the normal cutting power.

The stems that carry blooms should be pruned as soon as the flowers begin to fade. The cut should be made





on the flowering twigs just above the first pair of axil buds. This also applies to Rhododendrons, Buddleia, Magnolia and Azaleas.

Since the purpose of woody vines is usually to drape, clothe or screen objects, it is rarely desirable to prune them, except to induce new growth at the base. As always, dead wood should be cut out at any time and precocious shoots should be kept within bounds. Other than this, the less shears are used, the better. Wisterias are often slow and reluctant to flower. Sometimes this is an inherent fault of the individual plant and cannot be overcome. Often, however, a rather severe heading back of the side shoots in midsummer or early autumn is effective. Root pruning with a sharp pointed spade around the main stem, will also stimulate the formation of flowering buds that should provide a wealth of color the following spring.

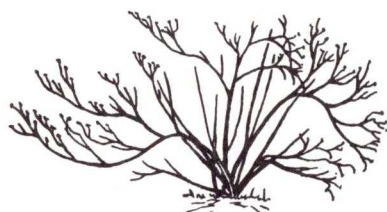


Fig. 14 Unpruned Shrub



Fig. 15 Improperly Pruned Shrub

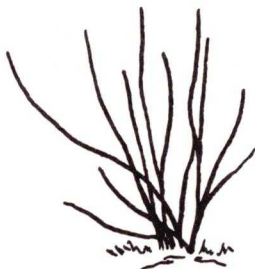


Fig. 16 Correctly Pruned Shrub



#### No. 514 PRUNING SAW

On branches too large for lopping shears, this handy, fast cutting saw will do a neat, quick job.

# WHEN and HOW TO PRUNE FRUIT TREES



“Just as the twig is bent, the tree’s inclined.”

Young fruit trees are pruned for preliminary shaping at time of planting. At this time the root system is also pruned enough to remove broken or ragged ends so that the top is kept in balance with the reduced root system. The young tree is starting life anew and its first year it is cut back to a whip. Second and third year pruning determines shape of head and prevents development of bad crotches. Pruning of fruit trees is best done during the dormant period. Summer pruning, except for the removal of water sprouts or “suckers” tends to weaken the trees. Comparatively little pruning is necessary or desirable in young fruit trees. The little that is necessary, however, should not be neglected.

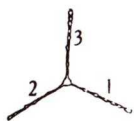


Fig. 17  
Pattern of young tree looking  
down on the head.

The first year the height of the head should be established by cutting off the branches that grow lower down on the trunk than desired...the remainder of the side limbs may be shortened but retained, if well distributed. Not more than two should be left that arise near any one point on the trunk, because of the danger of crowding and splitting later on (Fig. 18). Except on cherry and peach trees these side limbs should be cut back from one third to one half at planting time.

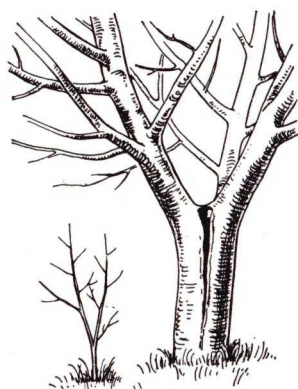
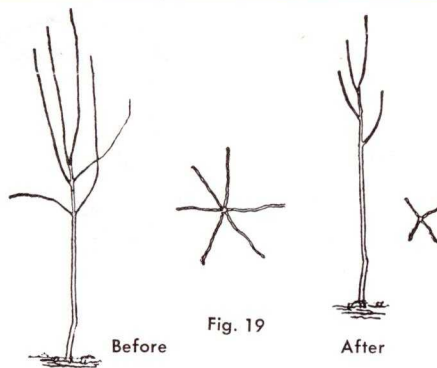


Fig. 18  
Split crotch. Could have been prevented  
by removing one of the branches when  
tree was young.





Pruning the apple tree at planting; top and side views shown.

In the second and following years attention should be directed toward the removal of vigorous growth which tends to crowd, compete with or injure the main limbs of the tree.

After fruit trees are well in bearing and grow older, more pruning will be desirable to keep them within bounds and the branches well balanced in vigor. The kind of pruning needed at this time will be, largely, cutting back to lateral branches in the top, and thinning out. With peaches, the cutting back is often carried into two or three year old, or even older wood.

### Apple and Peach

In shaping young orchard trees the main stem is pruned back to make a low head. As the tree matures, the small branches, that have a tendency to grow towards the center of the tree, should be pruned back close to the parent limb to admit sunlight into the open head. These low umbrella shaped trees are more easily sprayed, the fruit ripens more readily and is easier to harvest. Apple trees have a

tendency to sprout soft young shoots from the side branches. These "suckers" should be pruned close to their base. The yearling peach tree is generally cut to a whip about 3 ft. high at planting time, or, if the side branches are very well developed, they may be cut back to 2 or 3 buds.

### Other Fruits

An upright, compact form is natural for the pear. Each spring a light thinning is advisable. The cut should be made above an outside bud so that new growth will have an outward tendency.

For cherry trees it seems best to thin out the scaffold limbs where necessary but not to cut them back unless the basal buds on the branches are in good condition.

The Japanese plums are handled much like the peach, while other plums and cherries will need to be pruned more nearly like the apple. Most pear trees can be handled like the apple, but less pruning is desirable because of the danger of blight.

## WHEN and HOW TO PRUNE GRAPES

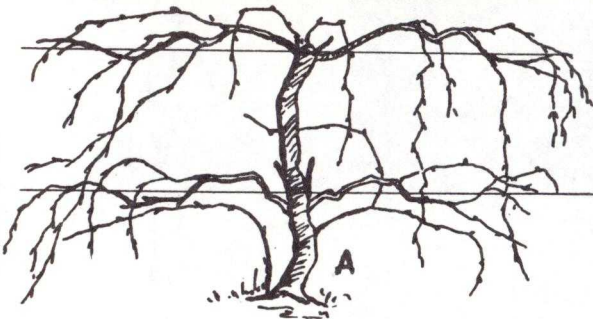


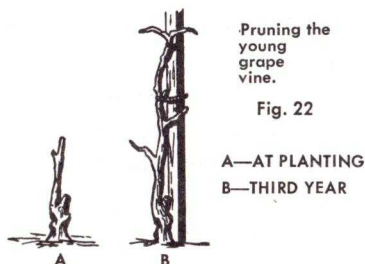
Fig. 20  
Established Grape Vine Before Annual Pruning

FEW OTHER plants respond to pruning more than grape vines. Unpruned grape vines eventually mean no grapes. Pruning should be done while the vines are dormant — usually in late winter. As fruit is borne near the base of the current season's shoots, it is necessary to maintain an annual supply of one-year-old wood from which fruit bearing shoots will develop.

Grapes will grow most anywhere in good well drained soil. The vines can be trained to any one of a number of different systems involving an arbor or trellis. The four-cane Kniffin system is preferred by many growers and it is as well adapted to home garden as any other. The supports consist of two horizontal wires — the lower about 30" and the upper 60" from the ground.

The young plants when set out should be cut back to one vigorous cane of two or three buds. (See Fig. 22.) It is advisable to stake the cane to keep it upright and straight since it is to become the main trunk to the top wire.

The third year all side shoots that have developed on the main trunk



should come off except two near the upper wire and two near the lower wire. (See Fig. 22.) These should be cut back to 3 or 4 buds each and tied to the support wires. They will form a double T shape. Each season thereafter the vine is pruned back to these four canes and each cane should be cut to 8 or 10 buds; from which the season's new growth will be made.

Pruning of older established vines will be much the same as outlined except that 2 spurs of two buds each are left at the base of each cane for renewal the following year of the four original canes. (See Fig. 21.) Each year the four best new canes which developed from these spurs should be selected to replace the previous year's canes.

An old neglected grape vine may well be cut to the ground and a new



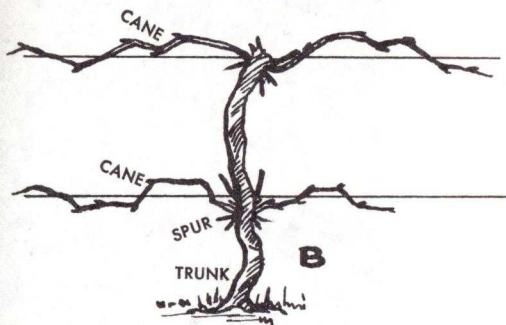


Fig. 21

Same Grape Vine After Pruning to a Double T Shape

## WHEN and HOW TO PRUNE BERRIES

trunk started from one of the new shoots. This will, of course, mean the sacrifice of a year's crop — but it's worthwhile.

### Strawberries

The plants usually come ready to plant without further pruning. During the first season remove all blossoms, throwing the strength of the plants into a vigorous root structure. As soon as established, the new plants will send out runners. For extra large quality berries remove all runners before they root. For larger yields allow four to five runners from each plant to develop a "matted row" not over two feet wide. Cut back any runners that have a tendency to run out of bounds in the paths. Berries are harvested the second and third years. After that the bed runs out and should be plowed under and replaced by a new planting in a different location.

### Red Raspberries

Cane fruits bear on canes that grew the preceding year. Any cane having borne fruit becomes barren and should be pruned at its base. Red Raspberries have a tendency to travel — the roots push out in all directions

and send up new shoots unless controlled vigorously. After the row is set with new plants, it should be kept not over 18" wide — all traveling suckers should be removed with a hoe and roots cut with a spade. The canes should be no closer than 6" apart in the row. In the fall, after fruiting, the old canes are cut off. In the spring, the last year canes are pinched back to approximately a fourth of their length and any winter killed canes cut off at the ground.

### Blackberries

All fruiting canes should be removed after the harvest. Side branches should be encouraged by pinching out of new canes that have reached a height of 3 feet. Side branches should have a spring pruning to about a foot and a half.

### Blueberries

Blueberry bushes can be pruned to advantage while dormant. Fruit is borne on wood of the previous season's growth. Dead and weak canes should be removed and the young fruiting shoots headed back to three or four buds.

## WHEN and HOW TO PRUNE SHADE TREES

### Pruning Shade Trees

Shade trees should be pruned and cared for at planting much the same as fruit trees, described on page 18'. Shade trees are best left alone except for the removal of dead, injured or diseased limbs. It frequently becomes necessary to thin out branches when they are too dense, gradually removing lower branches. Limbs that form a bad crotch should be cut away so that the tree won't develop a double leader. The elm, however, is an exception to this rule as it forms a crotch naturally. Outside of emergency operations it is not wise to prune shade trees during the period when sap is flowing. Some trees such as birches, elms and maples bleed freely when pruned during this period. In summer, after the leaves have developed, is the proper time to prune trees of this type, as well as willows, oaks, ashes and sycamores. On pruning or caring for mature shade trees consult an arborist for advice.



### NO. 333T SNAP CUT TREE PRUNER

Prune your own trees. This unit is lightweight and easy to use for clipping high-up branches. Two telescoping fiberglass poles are adjustable from 6 to 12 feet. Comes complete with 16" saw blade for cutting larger branches.





## HOW and WHEN TO PRUNE FLOWERS

### Pruning and Picking Flowers

Many annuals and perennials respond favorably to pinching back or disbudding.

Pinching off the soft tip of a stem with thumb and forefinger stops upward growth of a young plant. This forces the vitality into the lower stems which have a tendency to branch out and produce a stronger, more bushy plant as well as more flowers. Pinching out terminal buds should not be applied, however, to plants such as glads, tulips, poppies, columbine, foxglove, delphinium or hollyhocks. Plants that have a natural habit of growing spindly, such as petunias, heliotrope and particularly geraniums, become stronger when pinched back in early life. This is likewise true of snapdragons and annual candytuft.

Cutting annual flowers is vital to lengthening the blooming period of most all plants. Also it is good practice to remove promptly all faded and dying blooms. Therefore one should pick the blossoms to keep them coming. Once an annual plant ripens

seed, its life work is finished and it has no incentive to keep on flowering.

In perennials, food and energy are taken from the plant also when blossoms are allowed to form seed. Delphiniums, for instance, will send up a second crop of flower stalks, if the first is cut back to the crown as soon as the blossoms begin to fade. In short, cutting back on ever so many annuals as well as perennials, stimulates bloom.

The low growing plants that are happy when cut back include pansies, sweet peas, violets, nasturtiums, alysum and forget-me-nots.

Hardy Chrysanthemums achieve the best results by pinching out the tips when plants are about 9" high. They can be pinched back several times but not after the Fourth of July or thereabouts. This is sufficient pinching to produce a sturdy, free-flowering plant. It is common practice in some perennial gardens to cut back part of the plants and leave the rest. This prolongs the blooming period of plants in the daisy families as well as Gaillardias and Phlox.

## PRACTICAL PRUNING PRECEPTS

- Always cut off a diseased, dead or broken branch from any tree or plant at any time.
- Prune the weaker of two rubbing or interfering branches that are developing bark wounds — the quicker the better.
- Always prune flush to the parent branch or trunk. If only the end of a branch is dead, cut just beyond and close to a bud. Note: Be sure the branch is dead — not dormant, by slicing the bark and looking for green wood.
- In pruning, don't leave stubs or ragged cuts. Always use sharp, clean cutting pruning tools.
- Keep trees out of foundation plantings. Never let trees and shrubs block out windows of the house.
- All bark wounds over 1½" in diameter should have a protective coating of dark paint.
- Prune a hedge so that the plants grow wider at the base than at the top.
- Pruning top terminal branches produce a low spreading tree — by pruning lateral or side branches the tree will grow upwards — less bushy.
- Keep pruning shears sharp and well oiled and use the right tool for the job.
- In the garden it's always good practice to carry pruning shears. The "Snap-Cut"® is ever so light in weight and is ideal for this purpose. There's usually work for it.
- Keep your feet on the ground. Don't use step ladders, chairs or other make-shifts to prune the upper branches — use long handled pruners.
- Don't climb trees — it's too hazardous — that's the job for a professional arborist who has proper equipment and knows how to use it.

★ Every Good Gardener is a Good Pruner ★



## IT'S IMPORTANT TO USE THE RIGHT TOOL FOR THE JOB

FOR MORE THAN one hundred and ten years the SEYMOUR SMITH company has specialized in manufacturing pruning equipment. This name is eminent among nurserymen, horticulturists, arborists and gardeners everywhere. SEYMOUR SMITH pruning tools are sold by better stores throughout the nation and no tools can surpass them in practical design, expert workmanship or material. The names SEYMOUR SMITH and SNAP-CUT are the important names to look for when buying garden shears.

To keep your shrubs and plants in top condition it is excellent practice to always carry a pruner in your pocket the year around when you are in the yard or garden. There are always a few dead or stray branches that need nipping off, faded flower heads to be removed, a branch broken by a recent storm to be cut off, etc. The No. 19 SEYMOUR SMITH "Snap-Cut" is ideal for this as well as all general pruning — it is light weight, cuts easily and makes clean cuts that heal over quickly. Many good gardeners have several pruners so they are always handy. Keep a pair of your best and sharpest for fine pruning of roses, etc. — and keep another for rough work such as cutting roots and separating clumps of perennials.

For larger branches especially shrubs, fruit trees, a good pair of lopping shears are needed. The "Snap-

Cut" No. 1149 is light weight yet very powerful and cuts up to 1 1/4" branches with amazing ease — with it many women do much of their own shrub pruning. For heaviest pruning and brush cutting to clear land the more rugged No. 55 multi-power is recommended.

A tree pruner for cutting "high-up" branches up to 1 inch size is extremely useful. It is ideal for high vines, shrubs, etc. — nothing can surpass it for picking lilacs and other shrub flowers. Here again the SEYMOUR SMITH "Snap-Cut" No. 13S, 12 ft. long in two 6 ft. sections or the No. 333T 12 foot telescoping tree pruner is the tool to get.

For large tree limbs, cutting up trees, etc., a pruning saw is necessary — an ordinary hand saw won't do — you need one properly designed for pruning work. SEYMOUR SMITH pruning saws are the fastest cutting available.

Grass trimming is always a necessary job around any well kept home grounds and none can do it better or easier than the SEYMOUR SMITH "Snap-Cut" No. 727 or the long handled No. 747 with which you can do your trimming standing up.

For trimming hedges, shearing evergreens and other similar work a hedge shear is necessary. The SEYMOUR SMITH "Snap-Cut" No. 354-9 will do this work for you easier.

## For GENERAL PRUNING

***SNAP-CUT***

PRUNERS No. 19T and No. 118

The original and finest Anvil Action pruning shears; the easiest and cleanest cutting. Thin, keen V-shaped blade cuts against a non-dulling bronze anvil. Cuts  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch branches with amazing ease. You can test it yourself at your dealer's before you buy by cutting the hardwood stick packed with each pruner.

Cutlery steel blade, tempered and precision ground. Bright durable chrome finish. Comfortable, molded vinyl handgrips with handy, efficient catch. Made in two sizes, No. 19—8 inch and No. 118—6 inch ladies model.

No. 19T HAS TEFLON-S® COATED BLADE

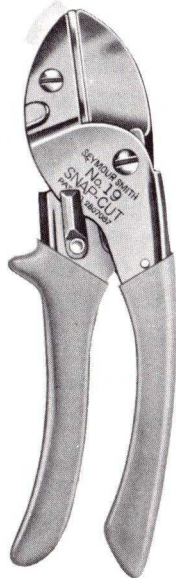
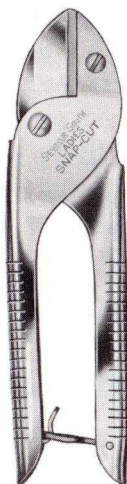
### A WORD ABOUT THE NAME

***SNAP-CUT***

GARDEN SHEARS

Over 45 years ago SEYMOUR SMITH developed the "Snap-Cut" pruning shears. They are without question the most efficient and finest available. Millions of them are in use throughout the world and their sale increases yearly.

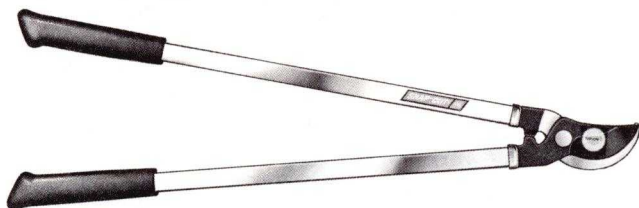
Now — SEYMOUR SMITH offers a complete line of "Snap-Cut" Garden Shears for every pruning and trimming requirement — Pruning Shears, Lopping Shears, Tree Pruners, Grass Shears and Hedge Shears. They all have the highest efficiency, quality and durability built into them that have made "Snap-Cut" Pruning Shears world famous. Every item is outstanding value and backed by over 120 years of manufacturing experience.





## For LARGE BRANCH PRUNING

**SNAP-CUT** LOPPING SHEAR No. 1145

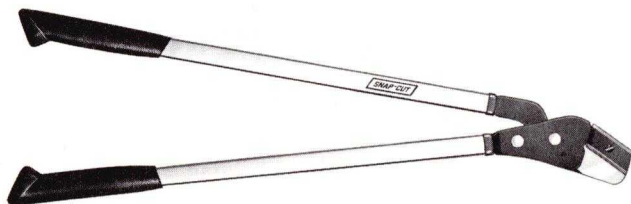


Popular style lopping shear with strong light weight high polished, special alloy handles. Blade coated with Teflon-S for self lubricating, no stick, easy clean, no rust finish. Cutting parts made from tool steel, hardened and tempered. Custom molded vinyl grips that comfortably fit the hands. Blade ground to keep sharp edge. Cuts up to 1" limbs.

TEFLON-S® COATED BLADE

## For HEAVY DUTY PRUNING

**SNAP-CUT** TIMBERLINE No. 25T



All new gear driven lopping shear with tremendous cutting power — 3 times as much as a conventional shear of equal size. 10 lbs. force on the handles gives 300 lbs. cutting power. Cuts 1 1/4" dia. limbs with draw cut anvil action, branches cannot slip out. Replaceable cutlery steel blade, reversible and replaceable bronze anvil, and rugged special alloy with comfortable vinyl hand grips. High capacity, heavy duty tool, useful to both home owner and professional.

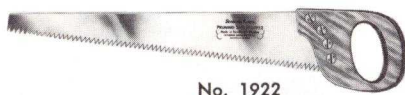
TEFLON-S® COATED BLADE

## For BIG LIMB PRUNING

SEYMOUR SMITH

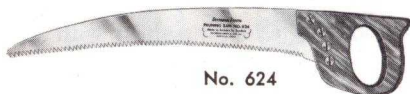
### **SNAP-CUT** PRUNING SAWS No. 1922 and 624

No. 1922 General purpose saw, good for all pruning work including large limbs. 22" blade.



No. 1922

No. 624 A fast cutting pull or draw cut saw preferred by many tree men. 24" blade.



No. 624

High grade saws designed especially for Pruning Requirements. Top quality, tempered steel saw blade. By actual test the fastest cutting and most durable on the market. Laminated wood handle — keen, perfectly sharpened teeth.

These saws are also available with DuPont's Teflon-S® stratified non-stick finish. This coating prevents sap, sawdust, etc. from building up on the blade causing the saw blade to bind and stick.

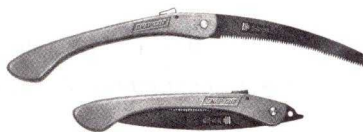
® DuPont Trademark

## For PRUNING AND CAMPING

### **SNAP-CUT** FOLDING SAW No. 910

Pruning and Camping Saw with modern, comfortable molded handle. Positive spring loaded catch holds blade in open position. Pull catch back and blade folds into handle to carry in pocket, knapsack, etc. No exposed teeth. Sharp, non-binding blade, 7 points per inch for pruning trees and shrubs, clearing brush, cutting firewood.

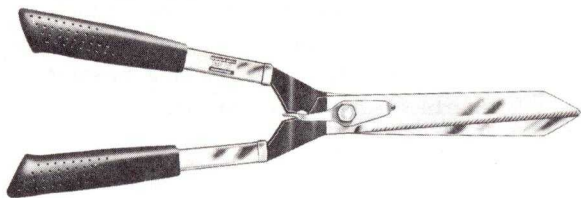
TEFLON-S® COATED BLADE





## For HEDGE TRIMMING

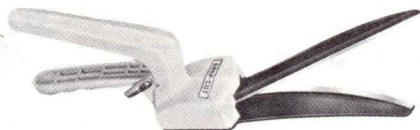
**SNAP-CUT** HEDGE SHEAR No. 354-9



For easier, faster hedge trimming. Patented, adjustable Tension Bar keeps proper tension between blades. Also acts as shock absorber to make trimming easier on the arms and wrists. Finest cutlery steel blades have hardened edges and precision ground bevels. One blade is serrated to keep twigs from slipping while the other blade easily snips them off. Blade notched for cutting large branches. Strong, polished metal handles with specially designed molded rubber hand grips.

## For GRASS TRIMMING

**SNAP-CUT** GRASS SHEAR No. 727  
WALK-N-TRIM STAND-UP MODEL No. 747



A new concept in grass shears. Made from new lightweight high impact molded materials. New self sharpening cutting design — vertical sweep blade slices across stationary bed knife easily cutting all types of grass. Sweep blade automatically pulls down against bed knife to maintain proper tension.

No. 727 hand shears has comfort molded, natural grip non-tiring handles.

No. 747 Stand-up has a swivel cutting head, adjustable to the horizontal, 45 degree, or vertical position for just the right edging position. The wheels are adjustable.





## For HIGH PRUNING

### **SNAP-CUT** TREE PRUNERS

Your taller trees and shrubs will also need pruning. SEYMOUR SMITH gives you a choice of two excellent home owner's tools for reaching and cutting broken or dead tree branches, shaping tall trees, picking blossoms, such as lilacs, apple blossoms, etc.

### **SNAP-CUT**

#### TREE PRUNER No. 333T

A complete tree pruning unit with cutter head for small branches up to 1" diameter, and 16" saw blade for larger limbs. Light weight, strong fiberglass poles, one section telescopes into the other so it can be used in a six foot length or extended any length up to 12 feet. Only one unit to handle rather than the usual 2 or 3 separate poles.

### TEFLON-S® COATED BLADES

### **SNAP-CUT**

#### TREE PRUNER No. 13S

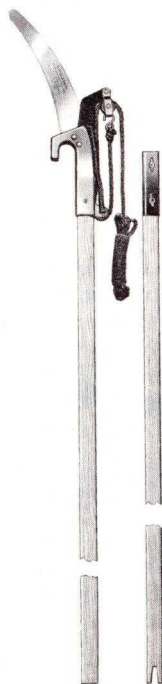
The No. 13S has two 6 foot jointed wood sections and can be used either in 6 foot or 12 foot lengths. Cuts branches up to 1" in diameter. A 16" pruning saw blade included with this unit easily cuts larger limbs.

#### CAUTION - WARNING

Seymour Smith tools are sharp cutting implements and should be used with care for cutting plant life only. Use only while you are standing firmly on dry land.

Do not use any of these tools in the vicinity of electric wires because of the danger of electrical shock.

For long, safe use keep the tools sharp, clean, and properly adjusted.





# CONDENSED PRUNING GUIDE

(Clip out and hang with your Seymour Smith tools for ready reference)

## --- FRUITS ---

	WHEN	HOW
Apple	Winter or Early Spring	Train tree for low head. Prune moderately—keep tree open with main branches well spaced around tree. Avoid sharp V shaped crotches.
Blackberry	After bearing and Summer	Remove at ground canes that bore last crop. In summer cut back new shoots 3 1/2 feet high.
Raspberry	After bearing and in Summer	Remove at the ground in fall canes which bore last crop. In summer head back new canes 20" to 22" high.
Cherry	Winter or Early Spring	Prune moderately, cut back slightly the most vigorous shoots.
Currant	Early Spring	Remove old unfruitful growth. Encourage new shoots.
Gooseberry	Early Spring	Same as currant. Cut back new shoots at 12 inches high and side shoots to two buds.
Grape	Late Winter or Early Spring, Before Sap Starts	Requires heavy pruning of old wood to encourage new bearing wood. Remove all old branches back to main vine. Cut back the previous year's new growth to 4 eyes or buds.
Peach	Early Spring	Prune vigorously—remove 1/2 of the previous years growth, keep tree headed low, and well thinned out.
Plum	Early Spring	Remove dead and diseased branches, keep tree shaped up by cutting back rank growth—Prune moderately.
Quince	Early Spring	Cut back young trees to form low, open head. Little pruning of older trees required except to remove dead and weak growth.

## --- SHRUBS ---

Barberry	Early Spring	Little pruning required except to remove a few old branches occasionally to encourage new growth. Head back as necessary to keep plant in shape.
Butterfly Bush	Early Spring	Cut out all dead wood—Remove some old branches and head in as necessary to keep plant properly shaped.
Clematis	Spring	Cut out weak growth but save as much old wood as possible.
Crab	Early Spring	Prune moderately—cut out dead and broken branches and suckers.
Deutzias	After Flowering	Remove a few older branches and all dead wood. Do not let growth get too dense.
Dogwood, Flowering	After Flowering	Remove dead wood only.
Dogwood, Other	Spring	Varieties grown for colored twigs should have the old growth removed to encourage bright colored new shoots.
Elderberry	After Fruiting	Prune severely—remove 1/2 of season's growth.
Forsythia	After Flowering	Remove a few older branches at the ground each year and head back new growth as necessary.
Honeysuckle, Bush	After Fruiting	Cut out some old branches—keep bush open.
Hydrangea	Early Spring	Hills of snow variety—cut back to ground. Others—remove dead and weak growth, cut old flowering stems back to two eyes.
Laurel, Mountain	After Flowering	Prune very little—remove a few old branches at the ground from weak, leggy plants to induce growth from the roots.
Lilac	After Flowering	Remove diseased and scaly growth, cut off old flower heads and cut out surplus sucker growth.
Mack Orange	After Flowering	Cut out dead wood and a few old branches to thin out plant.
Rhododendron	After Flowering	Treat same as Laurel, Mountain.
Roses, Climbing	After Flowering	Cut out about 1/2 of old growth at the ground and retain the vigorous new shoots from the root for next year's flowers—head back as necessary.
Roses, Tea, Hybrid & Perpetual	Spring After Frosts	Cut away all dead and weak growth and shorten all remaining branches or canes to 4 eyes for weak growers and 5 eyes for vigorous varieties.
Rose of Sharon	When Buds Start	Cut out all winter killed growth back to live wood.
Snowberry	Early Spring	Thin out some old branches and cut back last season's growth of that part remaining to 3 eyes or buds.
Trumpet Vine	Early Spring	Prune side branches severely to the main stem.
Weigela	After Flowering	Prune lightly, remove all dead, weak growth and head in as necessary. Cut out a few old branches at the ground to induce new growth.
Wisteria	Spring	Cut back the new growth to the spurs at the axils of the leaves. This can be repeated in mid-summer.
Viburnum	Early Spring	Prune lightly—remove all dead, weak and a few of the old branches.
Virginia Creeper	Spring	Clip young plants freely. Older plants require little pruning except to remove dead growth and some thinning.

**SEYMOUR SMITH & SON, INC., Oakville, Conn., U.S.A.**



***SNAP-CUT®***

*Garden Tools For  
Every Pruning And  
Trimming Need*

**SEYMOUR SMITH & SON, INC.**  
OAKVILLE, CONNECTICUT 06779

PRUNING SHEARS • GRASS SHEARS • HEDGE SHEARS  
LOPPING SHEARS • TREE PRUNERS • PRUNING SAWS